

## **Guntersville CAS Session**

March 23, 2002

### ***1. What TVA related issues are of special concern in your area or town?***

Balancing competing water demands such as flood control and recreation.

Environmental, wildlife, and fisheries issues as related to TVA reservoir Operations.

Bay areas are filling in with soil. the area that are filling in are slowly dying. continuous water letdown magnifies the problem. Vegetation grows so rapidly when the water is down and causes more soil to collect

An abundant supply of potable drinking water that is relatively safe.

Aquatic vegetation management: management for aquatic organisms and for public access

Environmental, wildlife and fisheries management in relation to TVA waterlevel management

Water quality- Wildlife habitat - outdoor recreation

We live on the water and invasive aquatic plants are of great concern to us. TVA has done a good job in the past two years they have sprayed but the plants seem to have gotten worse. Boat operation is greatly impaired by above. One of the reasons we purchased a home here was because of the clean water.

Property values on the water are determined a great deal by the negative effect of the invasive plant life.

We as residents would like to know what we can do to help in this matter.

We too would appreciate any information regarding elimination of muskrats, that are burrowing under our stone seawall and destroying our lawn with large holes, we fill these holes but they surface in another place..

Our name and address  
Roy and Babs Hicks  
3829 Meadow Wood Circle (Spring Creek Area)  
Guntersville, AL 35976

Water and flood control

Shore line development and growth control

1) Keep weed control at its current level, but use more sight inspections to determine if more spraying is necessary. The reduction of poison use is very important.

2) Preservation of islands.

- a) Cormorant and Blue heron populations must be controlled.
- b) Erosion control
- c) Habitat protection

3) Water

- a) Stabilize water levels during fish spawns
- b) Reduce water contamination i.e.; industrial and residential

- 4) Speed limits on water
  - a) Require no wake and idle speeds within 100 ft of shore lines and boat houses.
- 5) Atlanta water requirements
  - a) give them an inch and they will want a mile. Who gets the priority?
- 6) TVA should develop a lakeside residence manual for the do's and don'ts for living in harmony with the lake.

Shore line development

Water quality

Aquatic weed control

Aquatic plant mgt. is a very important issue for Guntersville  
Fish and wildlife habitat. Fish management and conservation.  
Environmental protection.

1. Flood Control. The filling in of large areas in the Guntersville Lake is causing flooding problems to people (e.g., (a) the acres of rock and dirt that have been filled in on the Stockton causeway beside the present location of the new Dairy Queen in South Guntersville, adjacent to Vaughn's Fish Camp and Restaurant,

2. The most expensive lot sold by Guntersville when they sold their "almost 400 acres" that they were given by TVA for a small price many, many years ago for an Industrial Park in the City Limits (South End of Signal Point Subdivision) that they later decided they didn't want to use for an Industrial Park to bring in jobs to the people of Guntersville and of Marshall County but would rather sell the land for a profit of about \$2,000,000 dollars so that the Mayor and City Council Members could have at their disposal to use for their personal pet projects, etc. This filling of excessive areas is causing the destruction of the islands in the Lake and is believed will, when all of the islands are no longer there, cause damage and destruction of the North end of the City of Guntersville in years to come. Such actions can be stopped now but nothing can be done to restore the safety barrier when the islands are all destroyed. Also, the establishment of more and more Marinas on the lake is displacing more water (every large cruiser that is stored in the Lake displaces an equal amount of water equal to the space that is filled by every boat (according to the amount of tons of weight of each boat). This flooding of areas that have not always been covered in water and do not drain properly are also causing stale, standing water that is causing a mosquito problem in the summer time. We cannot even be outside at certain times. This is a safety hazard because of diseases caused by these mosquitoes, especially the new Nile Viruses that are potentially deadly. Also, these boats are not dumping their raw sewage as required by Alabama State law, Code of Alabama and these laws do not include any set penalties to force the owners of the boats and the managers of the Marinas to comply therewith. This will eventually destroy the Water Quality for drinking by all of the people of Marshall County and downstream.

Uses Of the lake and its surroundings. i.e. recreational boating vs. fishing and the need to protect wildlife. All parties wishes need to be addressed.

Affordable power.

Number of Responses Counted (n) : 15

## ***2. What quality of life issues need to be addressed in your area or town?***

A comprehensive approach to managing expected growth

Clean water and air, with outdoor hunting and fishing recreational opportunities.

The preservation of TVA water and natural resources for the use and enjoyment of all the citizens for all time these resources belong to all the people and should never be used for any corporations, special interest groups to be developed in any type commercial enterprise.

The amount of garage and trash that people discard ends up in the waterway with no concept as to what problems they are causing. this includes fast food containers to refrigerators - the amount of car tires is amazing. Stronger enforcement of existing laws and the implementation of new laws is needed.

Growth and economic health are essential for an ongoing community. Guntersville is very large and plentiful and can support economic viability. Abundant water or a lack of it can influence the direction of a community by being able to support population growth. All viable communities need recreation and water can also serve as an amenity to surrounding communities.

Clean water and air: Environmental protection

Recreation: In relation to both consumptive and nonconsumptive users

That TVA continues to keep a close watch on clean water and flood control

Greed by developers and protection of the shoreline for everybody's enjoyment

- 1) Planned controlled growth.
- 2) Zero population growth

Continuing monitoring of the aquatic plant vegetation in the reservoir so that it does not hinder angling and water based recreation.

The need to maintain quality drinking water AND provide reliable and affordable power.

Number of Responses Counted (n) : 12

### ***3. What do you value most about the TVA river system of lakes/reservoirs?***

Integrated management of the system

Hunting and fishing opportunities.

Maintaining it's pristine quality, no commercial development

The natural beauty and recreational value

The abundant supply that the river represents. Abundance in water, recreation, support of economic interests, beauty, and wildlife.

Recreational opportunities: fishing, hunting, boating and flood control

Beauty and control

Control of the water use, and water control for the best use of all. A single agency for management and control.

- 1) Natural beauty
- 2) A valuable natural resource

Scenic beauty

Recreation opportunities, fishing and water sport related recreation.  
The protection that is afforded the environment.

Flood control and power generation.

Number of Responses Counted (n) : 13

#### ***4. What do you see as threats to the Tennessee River system?***

Competing water demands

Over population and pollution. Sedimentation. Urbanization. Deforestation.

Commercial development, sale of lands and water to developers, special interest groups thus denying all the people access to public lands and water for enjoyment.

Ignorant rednecks!!!! people with no respect for Mother Natures gifts. The ignorance of the simple fact that all does run down hill and end up in the river. This can be garbage, vegetation trash , farm run-off, soil erosion from logging etc.

Pollution is obviously the largest potential threat. The river system seems to have the ability to cleanse itself quickly, but some pollution is not detected in time for response and ecological systems can be destroyed.

The second biggest threat can come from wasting of the water

Over population, urbanization, uncontrolled/unregulated industrialization, uncontrolled forestry practices

Water quality deterioration, development (industrial and residential), to the extent that it negatively impacts outdoor recreational opportunities.

Weeds, excess shoreline development by greedy landowners and developers, pollution of the water by cities and industries.

- 1) over population
- 2) over usage
- 3) pollution
- 4) greed
- 5) poor management
- 6) manage river for future use not current use requirements

Aquatic weeds

Pollution

Overdevelopment of shoreline

Uncontrolled development. Too much sprawling growth without control of impacts upon the environment. Eutrophication of the lake environment. Erosion on shorelines along the river system. Too much aquatic plant growth if control is not adequate.

Parasitic water loss from adjoining states.

Number of Responses Counted (n) : 13

**5. What (if anything) do you like about how TVA manages the water system?**

Promotes higher spring water levels for establishing good crappie and bass year classes.

Thus far maintaining the water as custodians of public property.

Probably one of the most professional governmental management agencies we have ever been in contact with. The Guntersville Land Management team is always ready to help in anyway they can. We appreciate this attitude and find it enjoyable to work with .

TVA seems to view the river as a resource and their role is to manage the resource but not squander it. TVA plays the role of being a steward of the resource and does not take the role of ownership. TVA views the river as the peoples' river. The leadership and conduit provided by TVA is very helpful.

Working with state agencies in establishing stable water levels during the spring spawning period

Flood control.

We like how they protect the natural environment and hope they continue.

They seem to take an interest in the environment and clean water.

Listening to public input and usage studies

Excellent control of shoreline development

Good control of water level

Minimizes flooding.

Number of Responses Counted (n) : 11

**6. How could TVA improve its management of the system of lakes & reservoirs**

Continue this process on a periodic basis (i.e. every 5-10 years)

Higher priority on fish and wildlife issues.

Personally to have more leeway to improve the conditions at our location damaged by soil run-off and lowering of water. Our bay area is rapidly filling in and we need assistance or the permission of TVA to help keep it useable, by allowing us to either pump or dredge our damages recreation areas.

I personally have found TVA to be very willing to help.

Higher priority on fish and wildlife issues

Assist in maintaining quality outdoor recreational environment even at some expense to industrial development, commercial development.

We feel they do a good job

Better contact with land owners and real estate agents as to what can and can not be done with TVA managed public lands. More control over marinas and their pollution of the waterways. Empower the TVA LE to enforce federal clean water acts provision on MSD (i.e. boat type 1 and 3 enforcement)

Manage for the future and not be driven by current greed

On some lakes that have storage capability in the winter it may be possible to manipulate water levels according to research by Dr. Maceina at Auburn University to enhance crappie spawn and recruitment. Particularly need to look at Wheeler Reservoir.

Use a market based approach to allocate the system's scarce resources. Every user of the river will naturally think that their use is the most important. Self-interest would indicate this to be the case. So let them put their money where their mouth is. If navigation interests want a nine foot channel during low rainfall periods, they should pay a fee at that time to do so. The same goes for boaters, fishermen, and other water users. At the same time, if municipalities want a minimum current flow for water quality purposes, they should pay for that flow. Establishing fees for each river use would permit those users that think their use is the most important to reflect that. Those that want to use the river for a particular purpose at a specific time can pay a market clearing price and be able to obtain the channel depth or other desired use and will thus be able to do so with no shortage. If a market based approach is used by TVA to at least partially allocate the river's resources it would not need to have public meetings like I have just attended where competing river users try to convince TVA that their use should be given highest priority.

Number of Responses Counted (n) : 11

### ***7. Which of TVA's public benefits does TVA manage as the highest priority?***

List (By Total Chosen)	Total
1. Flood Control	6
2. Electricity Production	4
3. Protecting the Natural Environment	0
4. Providing Recreation	0
5. Water Supply	0
6. Commercial Navigation	0

Number of Responses Counted (n) : 10

### ***8. What public benefits are NOT on the list, that should be?***

Soil erosion control in particular the soil that flows down the mountains and collect in the bays.

Pollution abatement is an increasingly important issue for all waterways. The river is so vast that it absorb a lot of abuse but as more demands are made on the river and its watersheds, cleanup may become essential.

None

Don't know of any.

Natal beauty

Number of Responses Counted (n) : 5

**9. Which of TVA's public benefits *SHOULD* be managed as the highest priority**

List (By Total Chosen)	Total
<b>1. Protecting the Natural Environment</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>2. Flood Control</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3. Water Supply</b>	<b>3</b>
4. Providing Recreation	1
5. Electricity Production	0
6. Commercial Navigation	0

Number of Responses Counted (n) : 12

**10. Which of the 6 TVA public benefits *SHOULD* be *SECOND* highest priority?**

List (By Total Chosen)	Total
<b>1. Protecting the Natural Environment</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>2. Water Supply</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3. Providing Recreation</b>	<b>3</b>
4. Flood Control	2
5. Electricity Production	0
6. Commercial Navigation	0

Number of Responses Counted (n) : 13

**11. Which of the 6 TVA public benefits *SHOULD* be *LOWEST* priority?**

List (By Total Chosen)	Total
<b>1. Providing Recreation</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2. Commercial Navigation</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3. Electricity Production</b>	<b>2</b>
4. Water Supply	1
5. Protecting the Natural Environment	0
6. Flood Control	0

Number of Responses Counted (n) : 11

**12. Probability that population in your area will grow considerably?**

List (By Total Chosen)	Total
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1. Very Likely	8
2. Somewhat Likely	3
3. Neutral	1
4. Somewhat Unlikely	0
5. Very Unlikely	0

Number of Responses Counted (n) : 12

***13. Desirability of population in your area growing considerably?***

List (By Total Chosen)	Total
1. Undesirable	4
2. Very Desirable	3
3. Neutral	2
4. Very Undesirable	2
5. Desirable	1

Number of Responses Counted (n) : 12

***14. Environmental protection will be more important than economic growth.***

List (By Total Chosen)	Total
1. Very Likely	7
2. Somewhat Likely	1
3. Neutral	2
4. Somewhat Unlikely	1
5. Very Unlikely	1

Number of Responses Counted (n) : 12

***15. Environmental protection will become more important than economic growth***

List (By Total Chosen)	Total
1. Very Desirable	7
2. Desirable	2
3. Neutral	3
4. Undesirable	0
5. Very Undesirable	0

Number of Responses Counted (n) : 12

**16 .Growth will be in cities, the undeveloped areas remain undeveloped?**

List (By Total Chosen)	Total
1. Very Unlikely	5
2. Somewhat Unlikely	5
3. Very Likely	1
4. Neutral	1
5. Somewhat Likely	0

Number of Responses Counted (n) : 12

**17. Growth will be in cities, the undeveloped areas remain undeveloped?**

List (By Total Chosen)	Total
1. Very Desirable	6
2. Desirable	3
3. Neutral	2
4. Very Undesirable	1
5. Undesirable	0

Number of Responses Counted (n) : 12

**18.Your area will have a greater variety of businesses and industries**

List (By Total Chosen)	Total
1. Somewhat Likely	6
2. Very Likely	6
3. Neutral	0
4. Somewhat Unlikely	0
5. Very Unlikely	0

Number of Responses Counted (n) : 12

**19. Your area will have a greater variety of businesses and industries**

List (By Total Chosen)	Total
1. Desirable	6
2. Very Desirable	3
3. Neutral	2
4. Undesirable	1
5. Very Undesirable	0

Number of Responses Counted (n) : 11

**20. More protection will be extended to fish & wildlife habitat in your area**

List (By Total Chosen)	Total
1. Somewhat Unlikely	5
2. Somewhat Likely	4
3. Very Likely	2
4. Neutral	1
5. Very Unlikely	0

Number of Responses Counted (n) : 11

**21. More protection will be extended to fish & wildlife habitat in your area**

List (By Total Chosen)	Total
1. Very Desirable	9
2. Neutral	2
3. Desirable	1
4. Undesirable	0
5. Very Undesirable	0

Number of Responses Counted (n) : 13

**22. Probability your area will have more jobs?**

List (By Total Chosen)	Total
1. Very Likely	6
2. Somewhat Likely	5
3. Neutral	1
4. Somewhat Unlikely	0
5. Very Unlikely	0

Number of Responses Counted (n) : 12

**23. Desirability of your area having more jobs?**

List (By Total Chosen)	Total
1. Desirable	4
2. Very Desirable	4
3. Undesirable	3
4. Neutral	1
5. Very Undesirable	0

Number of Responses Counted (n) : 11

**24. There will be stronger regulations in your area protecting environment**

List (By Total Chosen)	Total
1. Somewhat Likely	5
2. Very Likely	3
3. Somewhat Unlikely	3
4. Neutral	1
5. Very Unlikely	0

Number of Responses Counted (n) : 12

**25. There will be stronger regulations in your area protecting environment**

List (By Total Chosen)	Total
1. Very Desirable	7
2. Desirable	3
3. Neutral	2
4. Undesirable	0
5. Very Undesirable	0

Number of Responses Counted (n) : 12

**26. Pick 6 items that represent THE MOST important value of the TVA system**

List (By Total Chosen)	Total
<b>1. Clean Water</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>2. Wildlife &amp; Fish Habitat Enhancement</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>3. Flood Control</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>4. Public Land Conservation</b>	<b>5</b>
5. Drinking Water supply	4
6. Environmental Research	4
7. Planning for Future Growth	4
8. Shoreline Erosion Control	4
9. Dam Safety	2
10. Affordable Electricity	2
11. Campgrounds and Greenspace	2
12. Water Based Recreation	2
13. Shoreland Development	2
14. Economic Development	1
15. Commercial Waterway for Shipping Cargo	1
16. Protection of Historical Artifacts	1
17. Mosquito Control.....	1
18. Recreational Facility Maintenance.....	1
19. Accessible Outdoor Recreation.....	1

Number of Responses Counted (n) : 11

**27. Pick 6 items that represent THE LEAST important value of the TVA system**

List (By Total Chosen)	Total
<b>1. Protection of Historical Artifacts</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>2. Economic Development</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>3. Shoreland Development</b>	<b>5</b>
4. Commercial Waterway for Shipping Cargo	4
5. Affordable Electricity	3
6. Environmental Research	3
7. Flood Control	2
8. Campgrounds and Greenspace	2
9. Water Based Recreation	2
10. Drinking Water supply	1
11. Wildlife & Fish Habitat Enhancement	1
12. Planning for Future Growth	1
13. Clean Water	0
14. Dam Safety	0
15. Shoreline Erosion Control	0
16. Public Land Conservation	0

Number of Responses Counted (n) : 11

**28. Please enter the county (or counties) each of you live in**

Marshall

Blount, Jefferson, Cullman

Limestone AL

Jackson.  
Jackson

Marshall  
Marshall  
Marshall

Etowah  
Marshall

Calhoun  
Marshall

Number of Responses Counted (n) : 10

**29. Please list your zip codes (don't enter your address)**

35747

35243  
35611  
35769  
35976  
35016  
35769  
35769  
35951  
35901  
36260  
35976

Number of Responses Counted (n) : 10

**30. Which state(s) do you, or each of you live in?**

List (By Total Chosen)	Total
1. Alabama	11
2. Georgia	0
3. Kentucky	0
4. Mississippi	0
5. North Carolina	0
6. Tennessee	0
7. Virginia	0

**31. I believe TVA will consider my input in this planning process?**

True: 100%

False: 0%

Number of Responses Counted (n) :6